

first incident in the story was suggested in a magazine article containing the account of the escape of a slave woman and her child over the ice of the Ohio River, but the death of Uncle Tom was the first point. After she had put this scene on paper the book rapidly assumed shape in her mind, and was soon completed. It appeared first in weekly installments in "The National Era" of Washington. On March 20, 1852, it was given to the world in book form. Ten thousand copies were sold in a very short time, and the book soon reached a circulation of not less than 300,000 copies.

From a literary point of view Mrs. Stowe's studies of New England character and life are her best work, but we must not assume that Uncle Tom's Cabin owed its entire success to the theme and the hour. It brings out literary power of a very high order. Defective as it may be in construction and style, it has, nevertheless, elements of true greatness in it. Mrs. Stowe was beyond question the most influential woman of her time in this country, and in all probability one of the marked women of the century in the eyes of the future.

#### HOW BEST SECURE PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S WORK?

(Read at Elkhart County Union Meeting by A. B. Miller.)

By thoroughly organizing from the National work to the State work; from state to county and from the county to all the subordinate societies of Christian Endeavor, thus opening avenues through which children and young people can work as well as the older ones. When we are once thoroughly organized it will be easier to keep up a growing interest. Organization being a means through which different localities can co-work and mingle together, thus increasing sociability and widening acquaintance. It will be easier also to gather funds which are so much needed in church extension. For instance the Theological department of our school at Ashland should have special collections, not only from these different societies but should be remembered by all in prayer and frequent donation, and finally remembered when making distribution of property by will.

Suppose one of us had placed in the treasury \$200 for some poor young man whom God had called to preach, to be used in preparing himself or herself more thoroughly; said \$200 to be used say 3 to 5 years without interest, or at any time the borrower felt able to place it back to be used by another. That young man would go out into the world preaching and by the power of the spirit would arouse some

other one whom God calls to preach and your \$200 will be given to another to use so there would be no end to the use of the \$200. But it would go on helping to qualify multiplied laborers in the great harvest field. What treasure would thus be laid up in heaven?

Again I feel that the church needs more of the Spirit. More of that Spirit that makes alive and leads into all truth. A deeper work of grace so that we can say from the heart, "we are and have nothing, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. We too are not our own but have been bought with a price." Thus consecrating ourselves and all we have to God.

Again we, the laity, could secure a better state of things in Christ's vineyard by holding up our minister's hands. (This you know is a delicate subject for the minister to talk of.) This we can do in many ways, by a warm shake of the hand and a God-speed; by a frequent visit at his home, and supplying his needs; by furnishing him with church literature or any thing that we think would encourage him. We should not forget the minister's family. They are often at home lonely, doing domestic work. These duties and all others will be made alive in us by remembering them in our prayers.

#### HOW CAN THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN HOMES BE INCREASED?

MRS. CORA MILLER.

[Read at Elkhart Co., Union Meeting.]

All homes yield an influence whether christian or not. But the christian home can increase its influence by living up to the christian profession and by letting good works be manifested in daily life. They must be pure christians every day alike, doing good wherever and whenever opportunity affords.

When we enter a home can we not tell whether it is a christian home or not? But how can we tell?

We can tell in various ways, for instance when we enter that home and see the table piled up with county newspapers and dime novels and all such trashy things in place of the family Bible and some good religious papers and plenty of good literature which will influence all who may happen to read them. The more we read such literature the more it leads us to think of him who suffered and died for us that we through him might have everlasting life.

All other literature except that of a religious character is the works of man, but the Bible is the works of our Father in heaven. Is it not better for us to be influenced by such noble works which will

endure forever than by man's works which will be overthrown.

What is man within himself without God to lead and guide him? He is as nothing and can do nothing. Many people are influenced by their environments and if all christians would strive to do some signal good they would bring many to the fold of Christ.

In the battle of Waterloo, Wellington saw that the Highlanders were falling back, he said, "What is the matter there?" He was told the music had ceased, and he called up the pipers and ordered them to strike up an inspiring air. No sooner did they strike the air than the Highlanders were rallied and helped to win the day. So we, in our Christian warfare when we see some one that is weak in the cause of Christ and is falling or is being lured back to the ways of the world, can win them back to the fold by being true to our profession and living pure christian lives wherever we are.

Another important feature to be observed in christian homes is family worship, which if properly conducted will surely have a tendency to instruct each member of the family in the right way and bring each one nearer to Christ each day. Without it we are so apt to become careless and forget our dear Saviour.

#### ONE SIN.

"There is but one crack in the lantern, and the wind has found it out and blown out the candle. How great a mischief one unguarded point of character may cause us! One spark blew up the magazine and shook the whole country for miles around. One leak sank the vessel and drowned all on board. One wound may kill the body. One sin destroys the soul.

"It little matters how carefully the rest of the lantern is protected, the one point which is damaged is quite sufficient to admit the wind, and so it little matters how zealous the man may be in a thousand things, if he tolerates one darling sin, Satan will find out the flaw and destroy all of his hopes. The strength of a chain is measured, not by the strongest, but by its weakest link, for if the weakest snaps what is the use of the rest? Satan is a close observer, and knows exactly where our weak points are; we have need of very much watchfulness, and we have great cause to bless our merciful Lord who prayed for us that our faith fail not. Either our pride or our sloth, our ignorance, our anger, or our lust would prove our ruin, unless grace interposed; any one of our senses or faculties might admit the foe, yea, our virtues and graces might be the gate of entrance to our enemies. O Jesus, if thou hast indeed bought me with thy blood, be pleased to keep me by thy power even unto the end."

—C. H. Spurgeon.